

# Homenetmen Antranig Australia History



# Welcome to Homenetmen Antranig

## About Homenetmen

Source: <http://web.homenetmen.co/history/>

The words Homenetmen translates in English to **ARMENIAN GENERAL ATHLETIC UNION AND SCOUTS**. Our Motto is Partsratsir Partsratsour which translates to “Rise and Raise” (Elevate yourself and elevate others with you).

Dating back to 1910, Armenians living in Constantinople participated and prospered in various athletic groups. One of the coaches of these groups, Shavarsh Krissian, with the help of his periodical “Manramarz” publicized the need to unite all Armenians under one organization. Unification plans were halted as in 1914 World War I began. Soon after in 1915 the Armenian Genocide tragically took the life of Shavarsh Krissian as he along with other Armenian intellectuals and leaders were killed at the Ayachi prison in Bosphorus.

With the end of the war, a new group of Armenians set out to continue Krissian’s dream. Seven Armenians convened a meeting in Constantinople on November 16, 1918 in order to unite all of the Armenian athletic group under the name “Homenetmen” (Armenian General Athletic Union and Scouts).

The participants of the Homenetmen Constituent Meeting were as follows: Grigor Hagopian, Dikran Khoian, Levon Hagopian, Karlo Shahinian, Haig Jizmejjan, Vahram Papazian, & Jirair Khorasanjian.

The first Homenetmen Executive Committee was formed on December 16 of 1918. After its establishment in 1918, four Homenetmen chapters were soon opened in various Constantinople neighbourhoods.

On July 20, 1920 the founding members of Homenetmen were officially invited to the independent Republic of Armenia. The purpose of the meeting was to share both their knowledge and expertise regarding athleticism and scouting with the Republic's government. The Homenetmen Executive Committee sent Vahan Cheraz, Dikran Khoian, and Onig Yazmajian to the meeting. Although initially successful in their efforts to spread Homenetmen's athletic and scouting movement within Armenia, Homenetmen later was banned from Armenia after Armenia's succession into the Soviet Socialist Republic.

Similarly, in 1922, the Homenetmen chapters in Constantinople were forced to close their doors. This caused the organization's leaders to disperse throughout the world.

In 1924, the organization's development resumed establishing a chapter in Beirut, Lebanon, and later on in 1925 in Aleppo, Syria. From that point on Homenetmen continued to organize chapters within the large Armenian communities in the area.

Homenetmen has since established various chapters in the Armenian diaspora including in many cities in the Middle East, Europe, United States, Canada, South America and Australia.

Almost all chapters established have activities in Scouting and sports. The mission of Homenetmen is to prepare physically strong Armenians and exemplary citizens with the highest intellectual and spiritual virtues:

1. By teaching them to be resilient and brave, patriotic, law-abiding and disciplined
2. By developing awareness of duty, feelings of responsibility and honour, in a spirit of harmony and cooperation.
3. By filling the mind and heart with the noblest of sporting spirit.

Homenetmen objectives are realized by Scouting, general physical education and sports, lectures, seminars and public activities, publications, clubs and sports centres.

Today Homenetmen is a worldwide organization with over 25,000 members on five continents.

## **About Homenetmen Australia**

During the early 1960's, due to the political situation in the Middle East, a large number of Armenians migrate to Australia, Canada, and the United States.

Not only do they re-establish their lives and their families, but they also begin the expansion of Homenetmen chapters to new areas. As soon as they were settled, they started organizing various community activities i.e. Sunday School, Scouting and sports including football and basketball.

March 1965 saw the first Homenetmen Sydney branch meeting take place with approximately 40 members. From this meeting 7 members were elected to form our "Antranig Committee". These members were:

- Mr Arsen Hekimian - President
- Mr Berdj Momdjian - Secretary
- Mr Hagop Kortian - Treasurer
- Mr Hovhanness Mardoyian – Scout Group Leader
- Mr George Aposhian - Sports
- Mr Zaven Sarkissian - Soccer
- Mr Simon Kurdoghlian – Resources Manager

Homenetmen Australia currently has 5 chapters representing different areas:

- Antranig (1965): Sydney North Shore
- Arax (1966): Melbourne
- Navasart (1973): Sydney Western Suburbs
- Gamk (1981): Sydney Eastern Suburbs
- Ararat (1989): Sydney Northern Districts

## The Chronology of Homenetmen Australia

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<b>1960's</b>	Influx of Armenians from the Middle East into Sydney and Melbourne gains momentum in search of security and a better life. As soon as they settle in, they started organising various community activities including Sunday school, cultural scouting, sport, relief and youth.	
	One of the cornerstone organisations established during this time was Homenetmen.	<b>Mr Arsen Hekimian, Mr Krikor Lousikian, Mr Berdj Momdjian, Mr Hovhanness Mardoyian &amp; Mr Khatchadour Khatchadourian</b> were primary catalysts in bringing together the new arrivals who were members of Homenetmen in their country of origin.
<b>March 1965</b>	Inaugural branch meeting of the newly founded "Homenetmen Sydney branch" took place at 1 Cable Street, Wollstonecraft (the residence of Berdj Momdjian, Vasgen Pailagian and Armen Bekarian).  For 4 years this residence served as the Armenian Community Meeting Centre and gathered new immigrants and Homenetmen members.  Present were 40 Homenetmen members from various Homenetmen Clubs from the middle east that had recently immigrated to Sydney.	The first committee was elected.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March 1965</b>	The second committee meeting of Homenetmen Sydney Branch (Antranig) passes a resolution to actively pursue the purchase of a property as its club.	

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**21<sup>st</sup> March 1965** Homenetmen registers Homenetmen Scouting and Homenetmen Sporting teams with local organisations. The leaders of the scouting movement undertake the appropriate training recommended by Australian Scouting association and are officially certified as leaders in the Australian Scouting movement.

**Mr Hovhanness Mardoyian**  
*(Scout Group Leader)*  
**Mr Vasgen Paylagian**  
*(Scout Master)*  
**Mr Berdj Momdjian**  
*(Cub Master)*  
**Mr Krikor Katchadourian**  
*(Deputy Scout Master)*  
**Mr Dikran Chorlian**  
**Mr Hovaness Yegenian**  
**My Yeprad Evanian**  
**Mr Boghos Boghossian**  
**Mr Tro Shamlia**  
*(Assistant Leaders)*  
**Mr Krikor Katchadourian**  
*(Band Leader)*

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**21<sup>st</sup> March 1965** The Homenetmen Far East Regional Committee recognises and endorses the newly formed committee of the Homenetmen Sydney Branch

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**March 1966** First annual general meeting establishes a voluntary team to help the transportation of the children to the Armenian Sunday school established by Hamazkaine.

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First parents committee is established to assist with the various Homenetmen activities.

**Mr Khatchadour Khatchadourian**  
*(Chairman)*  
**Mrs Mary Patapanian**  
**Mr Ghevont Shahinian**  
**Mr Hagop Soghomonian**  
**Mr Nazareth Vartougian**

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**24<sup>th</sup> April 1965** Together with Hamazkaine committee, Homenetmen organises the 50<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

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**25<sup>th</sup> April 1965** The 50 member Homenetmen Scouts Band flying the Armenian national tricolour flag, participates in the multinational commemorative Anzac March thereby establishing the presence of the Armenian community as part of the greater Australian family.

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<b>28<sup>th</sup> May 1965</b>	Together with the Hamazkaine committee, Homenetmen organises the 48 <sup>th</sup> commemoration of the first Independence of Armenia.	
<b>Second half of 1966</b>	Homenetmen establishes Melbourne branch (Arax), following the example of the Sydney branch, in turn establishes Scouting and Sporting groups.	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March 1967</b>	Homenetmen holds its first public swearing in ceremony of the newly certified scouts who had undertaken and passed scouting training and examination process.	
<b>1968</b>	The Homenetmen football team wins the championship of its division. The Homenetmen Senior Men's Basketball team wins the championship of the multi-cultural tournament.	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> January 1968</b>	The first Sydney-Melbourne Navasartian games take place in Sydney.	
<b>October 1971</b>	The Homenetmen Brownies (Junior Girl Guides) is founded.	<b>Mrs Alice Momdjian (Zarigian) and Mrs Ani Der Tateossian (Zarigian)</b>
<b>1968 – 1972</b>	4 Navasartian games take place between Melbourne and Sydney. It is then decided to hold an annual Navasartian games alternating between Sydney and Melbourne. To date 46 Navasartian games have been held between Sydney and Melbourne.	
<b>1972</b>	With additional growth plans, the Homenetmen Sydney branch (Antranig) is endorsed as the Avak (Senior) branch.	

<b>1972</b>	Homenetmen Australia establishes the first Scouting Advisory Council.	<b>Mr George Janoyian</b> <b>Mr Hagop Nazarian</b> <b>Mr Jan Khorozian</b> <b>Mr Nerses Cholakian</b> <b>Mr Hagop Gabonian</b> <b>Mr Berdj Momdjian</b>
<b>1973</b>	The Homenetmen Girl Guide group is established.	<b>Ms Sonia Karamanian</b> <b>Ms Ani Karamanian</b>
<b>1973</b>	Following detailed research & study in the area Homenetmen Avak committee establishes a new Homenetmen branch in Western Sydney, the Fairfield Branch (Navasart).	
<b>1974</b>	Homenetmen Central Committee is established.	
<b>1977</b>	The joint Club Purchase Committee Fund comprising representative from 3 committees: Homenetmen Sydney Branch (Antranig) & Hamazkaine Sydney branch (Shant) & the Armenian Relief Society Sydney Branch (Sose) purchase a property at 259 Penshurst St Willoughby which is name the Armenian Cultural Centre.	
<b>1978</b>	Homenetmen Australia participates in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pan Armenian games in Los Angeles, and inaugural Homenetmen Scouts Jamboree in Athens Kalamos Greece.	
<b>26<sup>th</sup> December 1979</b>	Australian inaugural Regional Committee is founded in the presence of the late Chairman of the Central Committee Mr Vartkes Der Garabedian.	<b>Mr Vasgen Paylagian</b> <b>Mr Hovhaness Mardoyian</b> <b>Mr Zaven Proudian</b> <b>Mr Artoush Aghamalian</b> <b>Mr Raffi Khrlopian</b>



<b>22nd March 1980</b>	Official opening of Armenian Cultural Centre, Willoughby. Homenetmen Venturers established.
<b>1981</b>	Homenetmen Joeyes established.
<b>1981</b>	Homenetmen Eastern Sydney Branch (Gamk) is established.
<b>1989</b>	Ararat Committee joins the greater Homenetmen family as the Homenetmen Ararat branch.
<b>1989</b>	Homenetmen branches renamed <b>Antranig, Arax, Navasart, Gamk, Ararat.</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> October 2008</b>	Official opening of the Antranig Scouts hall in Narreburn which coincides with the 90 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Homenetmen and 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Australian Scouting movement.
<b>2015</b>	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Homenetmen Antranig (Sydney) branch in Australia.

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